



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Withdrawn)** A protein as defined in (a) or (b):
 - (a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - (b) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 with one or several amino acids deleted, replaced, or added, and having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein.
2. **(Withdrawn)** The protein of claim 1, which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
3. **(Currently amended)** A polynucleotide that encodes a protein as defined in (a) or (b):
~~claim 1~~
 - (a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - (b) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 with one or several amino acids deleted, replaced, or added, and having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The polynucleotide of claim 3, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
5. **(Previously Presented)** A polynucleotide as defined in (a) or (b):
 - (a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (b) a polynucleotide which hybridizes with a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under a stringent

condition, and encodes a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A polynucleotide as defined in (a) or (b):

- (a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- (b) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence whose homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is 80% or higher and encoding a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A transformant obtained by transforming a host with a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6.

9. **(Withdrawn)** A method of producing a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein, comprising:
culturing a transformant as defined in claim 8 in a culture; and
collecting, from the culture, a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and the GDP/GTP exchange protein.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Withdrawn)** A method of analyzing a first polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6, comprising hybridizing a probe or a primer with the first polynucleotide, wherein the probe or primer includes a second polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to the first polynucleotide.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The analyzing method of claim 11, wherein the first polynucleotide is present in a tissue or a cell.

13. **(Withdrawn)** A method of analyzing a first polynucleotide encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2, comprising hybridizing a probe or a primer with the first polynucleotide, wherein the probe or primer includes a second polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to the first polynucleotide.
14. **(Withdrawn)** The analyzing method of claim 13, wherein the first polynucleotide is present in a tissue or a cell.
15. **(Withdrawn)** A method comprising:
amplifying an mRNA in a tissue or a cell by an RT-PCR method with a primer that includes a polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6.
16. **(Withdrawn)** An antisense polynucleotide which hybridizes with an mRNA encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
17. **(Withdrawn)** A ribozyme for cutting an mRNA encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
18. **(Withdrawn)** A double-stranded RNA for cutting an mRNA encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 by RNA interference.
19. **(Withdrawn)** An antibody against a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
20. **(Withdrawn)** A method of immunohistologically analyzing a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2, comprising contacting the protein with an antibody as defined in claim 19.
21. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 20, further comprising determining the location of the protein.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 20, further comprising determining the amount of expression of the protein.
23. **(Withdrawn)** A method of screening for a material that promotes or inhibits binding between a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof, and rabconnectin-3, comprising the steps of:
- contacting a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof with rabconnectin-3 in the presence and absence of candidate materials, and
 - selecting a material which increases or decreases binding between the protein and rabconnectin-3.
24. **(Withdrawn)** A method of screening for a material that promotes or inhibits binding between a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof, and a Rab 3 GDP/GTP exchange protein, comprising the steps of:
- contacting a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof with Rab3 GDP/GTP exchange protein in the presence and absence of candidate materials, and
 - selecting a material which increases or decreases binding between the protein and Rab3 GDP/GTP exchange protein.
25. **(Currently amended)** A polynucleotide that encodes a protein ~~as defined in claim 2~~ which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
26. **(Previously Presented)** A recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 25.
27. **(Previously Presented)** A transformant obtained by transforming a host with a polynucleotide as defined in claim 25.
28. **(Withdrawn)** A method of producing a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein, comprising:

culturing a transformant as defined in claim 27 in a culture; and
collecting, from the culture, a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and the GDP/GTP exchange protein.

29. **(Withdrawn)** A method of analyzing a first polynucleotide as defined in claim 25, comprising hybridizing a probe or a primer with the first polynucleotide, wherein the probe or primer includes a second polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to the first polynucleotide.

30. **(Withdrawn)** The analyzing method of claim 11, wherein the first polynucleotide is present in a tissue or a cell.

31. **(Withdrawn)** A method comprising amplifying an mRNA in a tissue or a cell by an RT-PCR method with a primer that includes a polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to a polynucleotide as defined in claim 25.